

English 12-- Spring 16

Great Gatsby Analysis Essay (100 pts)

As part of our *Gatsby* closure, write a focused, well-supported (**at least 3 quotes and other examples from the book and life observations**), multi-page argument essay which addresses the following:

Reflecting on the story of The Great Gatsby and the multiple ways in which it was told (in writing and on film), compare and contrast each version. Discuss how the characters in each film differ, how the plot changes in each and focus on the THREE main ideas that we have been discussing in class:

- underlying symbolism
- theme of hypocrisy
- concept of façade

Within your essay, you may also discuss one (or more of the following)

- Theme of
 - The American Dream
 - Dreams and Failure
 - Finding ones true identity
 - The emptiness of the upper class and the focus on the material
 - Concept of old money vs. new money

Important Info

Length: around 2-3 pages (**not less than 2 complete pages; 4 pages max**)

Format: typed, double-spaced, 12-point standard font (times, helvetica, etc.)

Thursday - 4/14/16: Bring a draft of your essay to class for peer feedback; bring your essay draft in, have it peer-edited and get feedback (5 extra credit pts)

Friday, 4/15/16: Final essay due at end of hour

A successful paper reflects the following effective writing criteria:

THE GREAT GATSBY FINAL EXAM ESSAY RUBRIC

CONTENT:

- Hook seems lacking; try to make it more
- The main point or focus of the essay is unclear or missing early in the paper
- Main point or focus of the essay seems obvious or "factual"; lacks sophistication or ambition
- Concentrate on using more specific and detailed need more than less.
- Expand on your ideas --> need more "A" from
- Does not use minimum of 3 quotes

ORDER:

- Try a more specialized introduction to really grab your reader's attention
- Try a more specialized conclusion to leave the reader thinking
- Your paragraph structure (topic / detail / transition) sentences either missing or simplistic
- You need more sophisticated transitions in the beginning of your topic sentences to transition from the ideas in your previous paragraphs
- Order of ideas / sections / Ps inconsistent, illogical, or off-topic

STYLE:"

- Lots of weak verbs (especially in 'major' interesting sentences)
- Try to combine and/or shorten sentences to reduce repetitive rhythm -- think sentence syntax.
- Try to use more vivid diction (loaded language) and/or syntax (parallel structure?) for style.
- Choppy or improper quote integration examples -->

MECHANICS:

- Missing papers (rough, peer reviews)!
- Fragments & run-ons (comma splices) present
- Other comma errors present
- Other proofreading issues present
- Improper MLA format used

REQUIREMENTS:

- Meets page requirement; normal 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, etc.
- Essay format - "5-paragraph"
- Compare and contrast required topics

CONTENT+ORDER+STYLE+MECHANICS = _____ /50 X 2 =

Final Score: _____ /100

10 – Perfect
9.5 - Excellent
9 - Very Good
8.5 - Good
8 - Pretty Good
7.5 - Average
7 - Below Average
6.5 - Needs Work
6 - Poor
Under 6 - Failure

Removing to be verbs...

Laura *is* a photographer for the local newspaper.

Better: Laura *works* as a photographer for the local newspaper. Better: Laura *shoots* photographs for the local newspaper.

George *hasn't been* well for a long time.

Better: George's illness *has lasted* for a long time.

Removing passive verbs...

The most common and easiest way to "correct" a passive sentence is to flip the sentence so that the actor is performing the action on someone or something. Sometimes an actor must be added to the active sentence if the passive sentence omits it.

Passive: The ball *was hit*.

Active: Bill *hit* the ball. (Note the addition of the previously unmentioned actor Bill.)

Passive: The box of treasure *had been buried* by the pirates before they escaped from the royal navy. Active: The pirates *had buried* the box of treasure before they escaped from the royal navy.

MLA Info...

Whenever you are including a quote from a novel, try to avoid having the quote stand all alone; instead, integrate the quote into your own sentence.

No: Fitzgerald showed this when Daisy was talking to Nick. "I've had a very bad time, Nick, and I'm pretty cynical about everything" (Fitzgerald 16).

Yes: Fitzgerald showed Daisy's cynicism when she claimed to Nick that she was "pretty cynical about everything" (Fitzgerald 16).